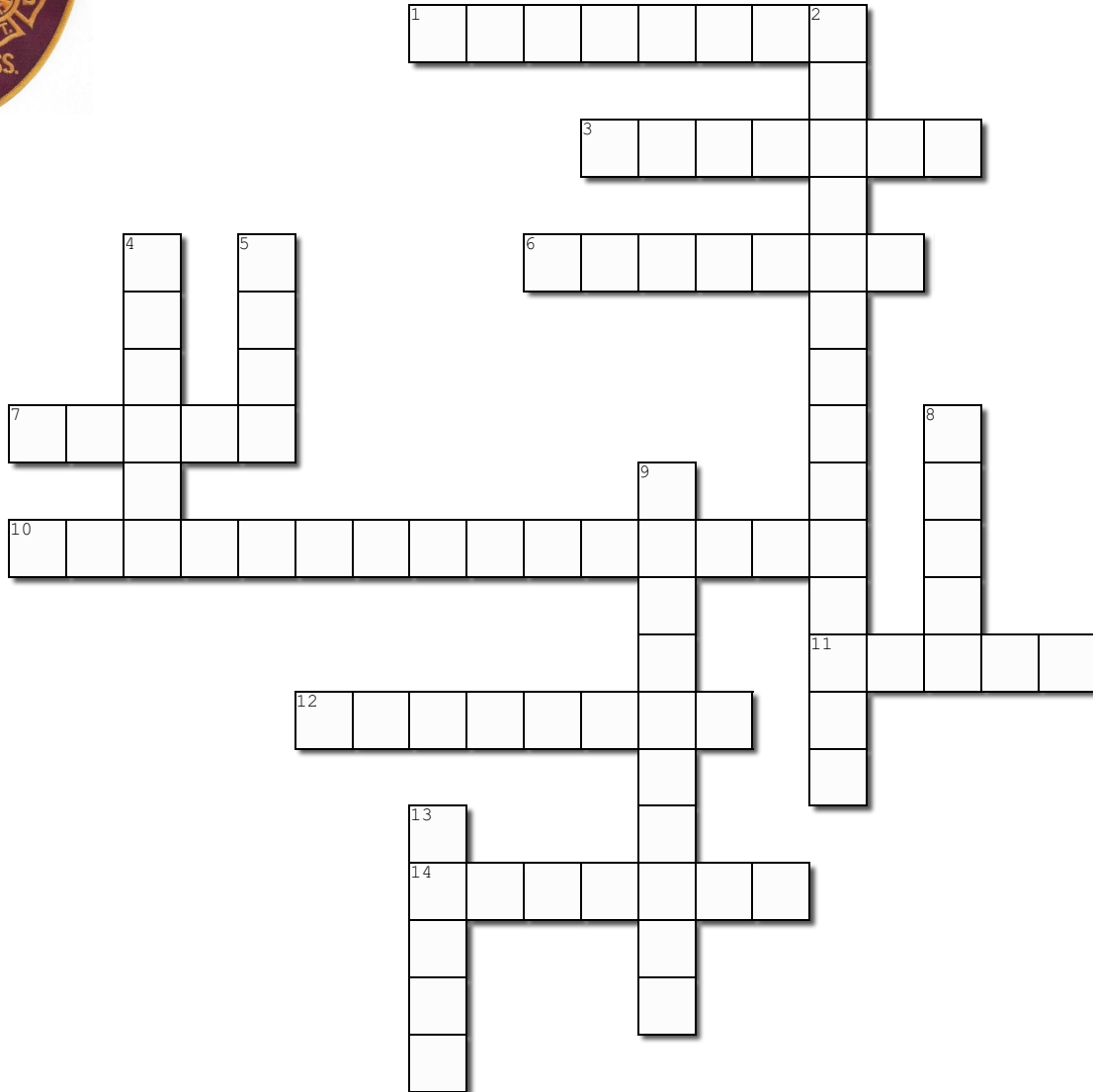




Fire Safety - Winter Heating

Complete the crossword puzzle below.



Across

1. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, _____ and poisonous gas.
3. Loud beeps from your detectors mean _____ and stay out!
6. Have your _____ inspected and cleaned every year by a professional.
7. Only use a _____ can with a lid for fireplace ashes.
10. Massachusetts requires all home to have _____ detectors.
11. Keep anything combustible at least _____ away from heaters and fireplaces.
12. If your detectors emit intermittent _____ sounds, it means the battery needs replacing.
14. Store ashes _____ at least 3 feet away from your home.

Down

2. Have a _____ on every level of your home minimum.
4. More fires happen in the _____ months than any other time of year.
5. Plug portable heaters into a _____ outlet only; never a power strip.
8. Never burn _____ in a fireplace, wood or pellet stove.
9. Always _____ all fires before going to sleep or leaving your home.
13. Test your smoke and CO detectors every _____.

Fire Safety – Winter Heating Tips

Source: Massachusetts Dept. of Fire Services.



Essential Fire Safety Tips

- Make sure there are working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and outside each bedroom. Massachusetts requires homes to have both smoke and CO detectors.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. Change batteries twice a year, when you change the clocks or if they are emitting short chirping sounds.
- Loud long beeps from your detectors signal there is an emergency and you need to get out and stay out of your home! And call 911 immediately.
- Create a home escape plan and hold home fire drills to practice the plan.
- If you heat your home with solid fuels (coal, firewood, pellets), follow these safe practices:
 1. Have your chimney professionally cleaned and inspected every year.
 2. Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
 3. Get a building permit before installing any wood stove, pellet stove or fireplace.
 4. Keep anything that can burn three feet away from fireplaces, wood or pellet stoves.
 5. Dispose of ashes in a metal container, with a lid, away from the house, garage and porch.

Safe Use of Space Heaters

Space heater fires are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, follow these safe practices:

- NEVER use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- NEVER use extension cords, only plug space heaters into a wall outlet.
- Always turn off space heaters when going to bed or leaving home.
- It is illegal to use portable kerosene heaters in Massachusetts homes.

Maintain Natural Gas Equipment

Natural gas is a safe and efficient way to cook and to heat homes and hot water. Follow these safe practices if you use natural gas:

- Have your furnace and hot water heater professionally checked every year.
- Do not use or store gasoline or painting supplies indoors where the furnace pilot light can ignite them.

Gas leaks can be dangerous – if you smell something like rotten eggs or you think there might be a leak,

1. **Go outdoors.**
2. **Do not smoke or turn electrical switches on or off - sparks can cause an explosion.**
3. **Dial 911 immediately.**

Maintain Oil Heating Equipment

Home heating with fuel oil is safe and efficient. Follow these safe practices if you use oil:

- Have your furnace professionally cleaned and checked every year.
- Don't let the tank get completely empty.
- Call for service if the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house

Practice Carbon Monoxide Safety

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home and CO is deadly. To protect your home and family from CO poisoning, follow these safety practices:

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.
- Don't use a gas stove or oven for heat.
- Have furnaces and chimneys checked annually by a professional.
- Keep appliance vents and exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow and bushes.